



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KEVIN W. CONCANNON, DIRECTOR

June 20, 2008

GENERAL LETTER NO. 17-D(2)-3

ISSUED BY: Division of Child and Family Services

SUBJECT: Employees' Manual, Title 17, Chapter D(2), **CASE MANAGEMENT PRACTICE GUIDANCE**, page 4, revised.

Summary

This letter reflects legislative changes to Iowa Code sections 232.102, "Transfer of legal custody of a child and placement," and 232.116, "Grounds for termination," as a result of Senate File 2212, enacted by the 2008 session of the Iowa General Assembly.

This Code change allows the court to consider a prior termination of parental rights that occurred in another state to a child in the same family as an aggravated circumstance to waive reasonable efforts, or as grounds to file termination of parental rights.

Effective Date

July 1, 2008

Material Superseded

Remove from Employees' Manual, Title 17, Chapter D(2), page 4, dated August 24, 2007, and destroy it.

Additional Information

Refer questions about this general letter to your area social work administrator.

Aggravated circumstances include situations such as:

- ◆ Parental abandonment.
- ◆ Parental conviction of specific crimes against children.
- ◆ Termination of parental rights with respect to other children of the parents, either in Iowa or in another state.

Purpose of Family-Centered Services

Both state and federal law recognize that services to help families remain intact are essential within our society. The Department is committed to family-centered services that recognize the wide variety of children's needs and ensure that whenever possible reasonable efforts are made to provide the least restrictive response for each child receiving assistance.

Family-centered services address the needs of children within the context of their families and promote individual and family self-sufficiency. Family-centered services assist to children and their families to:

- ◆ Prevent and alleviate child abuse, neglect, and delinquency.
- ◆ Prevent out-of-home placement of children.
- ◆ Provide support and service to children placed in kinship arrangements with nonparental relatives.
- ◆ Reunite families whose children have been placed outside the home and maintain reunification or other alternative planned permanent placements when children have returned home or been placed in a permanent setting.
- ◆ Provide specialized services (family team meeting facilitation, procurement card program, drug testing, and legal services for achieving permanency) not available under other funding sources.

Children are referred to the Department for family-centered services because of child abuse assessments and referrals from juvenile court. Services provided to children and their families will reflect:

- ◆ Their unique needs and the nature of their crisis situation;
- ◆ The behavior and needs of individual family members; and
- ◆ The potential for abuse, neglect, delinquency, or out-of-home placement.